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J. Parnell Thomas Advocates 'Strict Alert'

# Ex-Congressman Fears Spy Plane Incident Will Curtail Espionage

By BILL WILLIAMSON

The May Day incident in which an American "spy plane" was shot down inside Russia has brought forth an expression of concern and anger from St. Petersburg resident J. Parnell Thomas, former chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee and outspoken foe of communism.



THOMAS

Thomas says his great concern lies in the fear that the unsavory

incident will lead to a curtailment of America's espionage activities in ferreting out Communist activities in both this country and those of our allies. He advocated an even "more strict alert."

His anger is directed primarily at those Americans who seemingly have "swallowed hook, line and sinker Premier Nikita Khrushchev's version of the incident."

He presented The Independent with Central Intelligence Agency documents and Un-American Activities Committee testimony records that show widespread infiltration of Russian spies into American government, industry and military forces.

Thomas served 14 years in Congress as a representative from New Jersey. Ten of those years were spent as a member of the House Un-American Activities Committee, the longest term ever served by a member of Congress. It was in 1948-49, while Thomas was serving as chairman of the committee, that the notorious Alger Hiss spy case and a number of Russian espionage rings were exposed. Thomas moved to St. Petersburg to live after leaving Congress in 1950.

"The greatest danger which could come out of the Powers (pilot Francis G. Powers) plane incident is that our espionage activities may be curbed through

left wing pressure against our Central Intelligence Agency (CIA)," Thomas believes.

Thomas said some news columnists, a labor leader and several government officials have already started "beating the drums of dissension."

The CIA, headed by Allen Dulles, brother of late Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, has come under strong criticism for dispatching the plane over the "heart" of the Soviet Union while world leaders were preparing for this week's Summit Conference.

Echoing the sentiment of some American critics, the influential London Times printed: "What-

ever the reason (for the flight), there ought now to be a stringent tightening up in the control and coordination of the Central Intelligence Agency's activities."

But Thomas has taken a strong stand against such criticism. "Our intelligence system was not fully effective until CIA began operating. The criticism being leveled at it now is the same kind that was brought against the FBI in its early days," he says.

"I am fearful, he added, "that comment will grow that we made a mistake in sending a pilot over Russia at this time. (See Ex-Congressman, Page 3-C)